

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND ELECTION OF SPECIES  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/544,543

A<sup>1</sup>  
Com'd. the top end of the recording medium, the chance of the recording material being stained with the thus-discarded ink is significantly lowered. During a printing operation, the recording material is firmly held in position, thus preventing a decrease in quality.

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**Please delete the paragraph bridging page 44 and page 45 and replace it with the following new paragraph:**

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A<sup>2</sup> In contrast with a standard print processing operation in which paper is fed by the amount corresponding to seven rasters, paper is fed by the amount corresponding to four rasters during an intermediate processing operation, thus forming a raster (designated by the primary scanning operation P5 shown in FIG. 43). The significance of four rasters will be described later. Next, paper is fed by the amount corresponding to three rasters, thus forming rasters (designated by the primary scanning operations P6 through P8 shown in FIG. 43). As in the case of, for example, the first nozzle employed in the primary scanning operation 7, a nozzle is present in the raster position where a dot has already been formed. In this case, the nozzle masks the dot formation data so as not to form a dot. The location where the primary scanning operation P8 shown in FIG. 43 is performed is a critical location where paper feeding can be effected while the accuracy of paper feeding is ensured. In other words, the bottom of the recording paper 4 is at a position immediately before release from the paper feed roller 8.

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A<sup>3</sup> As shown in FIG. 24, through holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 are formed in the platen. In the present embodiment, the recording medium 50 is transported in the secondary scanning direction while

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one side of the recording medium 50 aligned with the through hole 1 is taken as a reference. The other side of the recording medium 50 assumes a different position according to the width of the recording medium 50. The through holes 2, 3, and 4 are formed in the platen so as to cope with the other side of the recording medium 50 of any size that can be accommodated by the recording apparatus. In the present embodiment, the through holes 2, 3, and 4 are formed in the respective spaces between the protuberances 14, and each of the respective through holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 is filled with an ink-absorbing material 7. Detailed description of the through holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 and of how the ink-absorbing material 7 is fitted into the through holes 1 through 4 will be provided later. In FIG. 24, reference numeral 5 designates an aperture for so-called flushing purpose (a squirting-ability restoration operation), and reference numeral 6 designates an indentation.

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*A4*

A method of feeding paper in the ink-jet recording apparatus of 20 the present invention will now be described by reference to FIGS. 53 through 67. Throughout these drawings, like reference numerals designate like elements. However, the reference numerals are irrelevant to those employed in other drawings. Hence, the reference numerals may designate different elements from those designated in other drawings.

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